

Abstract**MANAGING DISK DRIVE REPLACEMENTS ON MULTIDISK HEADLESS APPLIANCES**

A headless computer entity having a plurality of disk drives operates to self restore to a known state, upon failure of either a system disk drive containing an operating system of the computer entity, or failure of a data disk drive containing application data. Depending upon whether the system disk and/or the data disk are replaced by a replacement disk, the computer entity configures itself with either deletion of application data on the data disk, or with deletion of application data on both the system disk and the data disk. The computer entity determines whether a new replacement disk has been installed by comparing a signature of the system disk with a signature of the data disk. If a replacement disk is detected, then the digital signatures are set by the computer entity such that the system disk and data disk have a self consistent set of hardware specific digital signatures. Application data is returned to a known good state after deletion.

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